

# VU Research Portal

## Pathways into organized crime

van Koppen, M.V.

2013

### **document version**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

### **citation for published version (APA)**

van Koppen, M. V. (2013). *Pathways into organized crime: Criminal opportunities and adult-onset offending*. [PhD-Thesis – Research external, graduation internal, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam].

### **General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

### **Take down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

### **E-mail address:**

[vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl](mailto:vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl)

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Life courses of organized crime offenders . . . . .	1
1.2	Developmental and life-course criminology . . . . .	4
1.3	Manifestations of organized crime in the Netherlands . . . . .	11
1.4	Criminal careers of organized crime offenders . . . . .	14
1.5	Current research questions . . . . .	18
1.6	Data . . . . .	19
1.7	Thesis outline . . . . .	27
<b>2</b>	<b>Criminal trajectories in organized crime</b>	<b>29</b>
2.1	Introduction . . . . .	29
2.2	Life-course criminology and criminal careers of older offenders . . . . .	31
2.3	Pathways into organized crime . . . . .	33
2.4	Current study . . . . .	35
2.5	Data and operationalization . . . . .	36
2.6	Results . . . . .	39
2.7	Discussion . . . . .	46
	Appendix . . . . .	50
<b>3</b>	<b>Comparing criminal careers of organized crime offenders and general offenders</b>	<b>53</b>
3.1	Organized versus ordinary crime . . . . .	53
3.2	Previous empirical findings . . . . .	57
3.3	Research questions . . . . .	58
3.4	Data . . . . .	58
3.5	Results . . . . .	62
3.6	Discussion and conclusions . . . . .	70
<b>4</b>	<b>Involvement mechanisms for organized crime</b>	<b>73</b>
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	73
4.2	Organized crime and crime causation theories . . . . .	75
4.3	Social capital resources for organized crime . . . . .	77
4.4	Individual involvement processes . . . . .	83
4.5	Data and methods . . . . .	84
4.6	Results . . . . .	85
4.7	Discussion . . . . .	93

<b>5</b>	<b>The truck driver who bought a café: Offenders on their involvement mechanisms for organized crime</b>	<b>97</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	97
5.2	Opportunities and capacities for organized crime . . . . .	98
5.3	Methodology . . . . .	101
5.4	Results . . . . .	105
5.5	Discussion . . . . .	110
<b>6</b>	<b>General conclusions</b>	<b>113</b>
6.1	Aims . . . . .	113
6.2	Summary of the main results . . . . .	114
6.3	Discussion . . . . .	118
6.4	Scientific progress . . . . .	129
6.5	Public relevance . . . . .	131
6.6	Future research . . . . .	132
6.7	Conclusions . . . . .	134
	<b>References</b>	<b>135</b>
	<b>Samenvatting (Dutch summary)</b>	<b>149</b>
	<b>Dankwoord (Acknowledgements)</b>	<b>157</b>
	<b>Curriculum vitae</b>	<b>159</b>
	<b>Publications</b>	<b>161</b>

# List of Tables

Table 1.	Characteristics of offenders . . . . .	40
Table 2.	Judicial history . . . . .	41
Table 3.	Descriptive statistics for different trajectory groups . . . . .	42
Table 4.	Distribution of suspects over trajectory groups . . . . .	46
Table 5.	Criminal career characteristics . . . . .	63
Table 6.	Criminal career characteristics for fraud and drug offenders .	69
Table 7.	Overview of participants . . . . .	104

# List of Figures

Figure 1.	Overview of data sources . . . . .	22
Figure 2.	Criminal convictions over age by trajectory group . . . . .	42
Figure 3.	Distribution of age at criterion case . . . . .	60
Figure 4.	Maximum penalties for relevant offences . . . . .	64
Figure 5.	Intermittency in the offenders' judicial history . . . . .	65
Figure 6.	Distribution of age at first judicial contact . . . . .	66
Figure 7.	Mean lambda in the judicial ancestry by onset age . . . . .	67
Figure 8.	Mean seriousness of offending by onset age . . . . .	67
Figure 9.	Visual representation of relationships . . . . .	88